United Nations PBC/3/GNB/1

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
24 September 2008

Original: English

Peacebuilding Commission
Third session
Guinea-Bissau configuration
23 September 2008

Peacebuilding in Guinea-Bissau

Conclusions and recommendations of the Peacebuilding Commission on the situation in Guinea-Bissau

1. On the basis of the recent visit to Bissau by the Chairperson of the Guinea-Bissau configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission and the meeting of the Commission convened in New York on 17 September 2008, the Commission has agreed on the conclusions and recommendations set out below.

Context

2. At the request of the Government of Guinea-Bissau, the Security Council, in December 2007, referred the country to the Peacebuilding Commission for its advice (see S/2007/744). Following a presentation by the Government of Guinea-Bissau on peacebuilding needs and priorities, the Commission invited the Government and its partners to develop an integrated peacebuilding strategy for the country. The Commission's Guinea-Bissau configuration contributed to the development of the Strategic Framework for Peacebuilding by organizing a series of informal thematic meetings and preparing a detailed mapping of resources and gaps for peacebuilding in Guinea-Bissau, as well as arranging a visit by a delegation of the Commission to the country in April 2008.

3. On 31 July 2008, the Commission informally adopted the Strategic Framework subject to a final review by the Government of Guinea-Bissau. Following the change of Government in Guinea-Bissau in early August 2008, the Chair of the Guinea-Bissau configuration undertook a fact-finding visit to the country from 10 to 12 September 2008 to gain a first-hand perspective on the political developments in the country and to explore options for the Commission's continued engagement, including the timing for the adoption of the Strategic Framework for Peacebuilding.

08-51811 (E) 240908

Conclusions

4. The political situation in Guinea-Bissau has stabilized following the creation of a new Government on 5 August 2008. Civil society organizations and international partners have expressed confidence in the new Government. The new Government has stressed its intention to finalize the preparations for the elections, to be held on 16 November 2008, and reaffirmed its commitment to a fair and transparent electoral process.

5. The Government has reiterated its resolve to move forward on all the necessary reforms in the areas of security sector reform, drug trafficking and public sector reform, as well as on discussions with the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The Government also reaffirmed its desire for continued engagement with the Commission and formal adoption of the Strategic Framework for Peacebuilding as a matter of priority. Following the visit of the Chair of the Guinea-Bissau configuration and her report to the Guinea-Bissau configuration, the Commission agreed to proceed with the formal adoption of the Strategic Framework for Peacebuilding and to continue technical consultations on its monitoring and review mechanism with a view to its expeditious adoption.

Recommendations

6. **The Commission recommends to the Government of Guinea-Bissau:**

(a) To continue to ensure an environment of peace and political stability in the country, in the context of the preparations for the legislative elections;

(b) To make every effort to finalize preparations for the legislative elections so that the elections are held on time (16 November 2008) and in accordance with international standards;

(c) To continue to implement the security sector reform action plan, the national anti-narcotic operational plan and the reform of public and justice sectors, including the fight against impunity, while promoting efforts for the reactivation of the economy, the creation of an enabling environment for private sector development and addressing social issues in the country;

(d) To continue to engage actively with the Peacebuilding Commission, in particular in the technical consultations on the monitoring and review mechanism of the Strategic Framework for Peacebuilding.

7. **The Commission recommends to the Security Council:**

(a) To continue to monitor closely the situation in Guinea-Bissau, especially in the lead-up to the legislative elections;

(b) In reviewing the mandate of the United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office in Guinea-Bissau, that the Council address the need for a more coherent and integrated United Nations approach and presence in the country to support more effectively the peace consolidation efforts of the Government and other national stakeholders.

8. **The Commission recommends to international financial institutions, donors and the Government:**

(a) Taking into account the seriousness of the cholera epidemic and the associated high mortality rate, to make additional resources promptly available to support the Government of Guinea-Bissau in containing the epidemic;

(b) In the context of the preparations for the legislative elections, to continue to provide support to the Government of Guinea-Bissau, including by showing flexibility in the use of resources to cover the Government's share of electoral costs, if necessary;

(c) In the context of the ongoing dialogue between the Government of Guinea-Bissau and IMF on the implementation of emergency post-conflict assistance and future discussions on a poverty reduction and growth facility programme, to continue to take into account the fragile situation in the country;

(d) In the context of the ongoing dialogue between the Government of Guinea-Bissau and the World Bank, to make every effort to address the energy crisis in the country, including through the finalization of the procedures related to the provision of additional generators to Bissau;

(e) With a view to adhering to the above-mentioned recommendations, to promote further coordination among international financial institutions and donors;

(f) To continue to follow up actively the commitments made at the Lisbon Conference on Drug Trafficking and the Geneva Donors Conference.

9. **The Commission recommends to the United Nations Secretariat and United Nations agencies, funds and programmes:**

(a) To continue to support the work of the Peacebuilding Commission in its engagement with Guinea-Bissau;

(b) To review and enhance capacities to allow the rapid implementation of quick-impact projects of the Peacebuilding Fund.

10. The Peacebuilding Commission remains committed to paying close attention to developments in Guinea-Bissau, in particular to monitoring progress in, and risks for, the consolidation of peace.